

CITY HALL NEWS.

City Council Will Investigate Rogers' Serious Charges.

Matter Will Be Threshed Out Tomorrow Night.

NEW USE OF FIRE BELL

Action Taken to Change Name to "Wedding Bell."

Other Items of Interest Around City Building.

A special meeting of the city council has been called for tomorrow evening, December 9, at which time the entire ward representatives from over the city will discuss the charges made by John P. Rogers, that the city engineer's office in the past few years of Mr. Rogers' administration has been made a "dumping ground for political garbage."

The letter of resignation to the city council Monday evening written by Mr. Rogers contained a number of serious charges against the city engineer's office and it is the intention of the city officials and councilmen to go to the bottom of the thing and find out the real reason of the trouble.

Councilman Miller from the Second ward was appointed chairman of the investigating committee and he has been spending the last few days probing among the records and officials, trying to rain a little light on the matter. His committee of five councilmen are also assisting in the work.

It is a well known fact that the two important points which will be touched upon in the investigation are: (1) Were the plans of Mr. Rogers changed or altered by subordinates? and (2) Has the office been a dumping ground for political garbage? Upon these two points hinge the secret of the resignation and the quarrel between the mayor and John P. Rogers.

In a statement made by Mr. Rogers to the State Journal today the following was said:

"I wish in whatever article you give to the public you would correct the impression that the charges in my resignation had referred to the mayor and council. They were directed at and intended for one whom I had favored in every way possible only to have him undermine and knife me on every secret occasion and the political reference has direct allusion to the same party."

"Mr. Arnold (former assistant city engineer under Mr. Rogers), who prepared the plans his successor so ruthlessly slaughtered in the city engineer's office, was a competent witness to judge to the extent this alteration has been carried on."

"Thus it is seen that Mr. Rogers lays all his blame on W. S. Fulton, who was his assistant. Mr. Rogers has suspected Mr. Fulton for some time of reporting all matters to the mayor and the feeling toward this official is exceedingly bitter. It was always thought that the friendship between the two men was close on account of the fact that Mr. Rogers was instrumental in having Fulton's salary raised and in helping him out in many other instances."

The special meeting of the city council tomorrow night will probably reveal all the arguments of both sides of the question. C. A. Forter, draughtsman in the office of the city engineer; W. S. Fulton, J. P. Rogers, former Assistant City Engineer; Arnold, Mayor Green and several other "witnesses" have been subpoenaed for the investigation.

A warm session is looked for. The men on both sides of the fence will be present to make and answer all charges and the council will act as a jury, Councilman Miller having been chosen the judge.

Through an informal, unofficial and rumored order today Chief Wilmarth of the fire department has decided that the fire bell on top of the city hall shall be changed to a wedding bell, in order that the has-been, is-now, and would-be weddings in the building might receive proper recognition.

The effect of the municipal work on the younger people in the city hall is startling. Last month the stenographer to the city engineer, a milk inspector was married. Close upon her heels came Fireman Sanders of the fire department. Now comes Cecil A. Forter of the engineer's office who is to be married. The "prospects" are many. Assistant City Attorney James Clark is "flourishing" and he has decided that the life of a struggling attorney is not complete without a home. Miss G. B. (she refused to allow her name mentioned), stenographer to Chief Wilmarth, is wearing something that looks suspicious. Chief Wilmarth has sent out his feelers for a new stenographer knowing the coming event. Two members of the fire department are waiting for the contemplated raise in salary from the city council and then they will wed.

It is one continual round of clears for the reporters who "cover" the city hall—and the fever is catching.

The plans and specifications for the North side pumping station were carried promptly around the council chamber by Councilman Jordan Monday night. The city clerk was instructed to call for bids on this station. It will be remembered that this is the plant for which Alden Jordan has been fighting since the first of the summer. It has had a stormy voyage through the council, but the energetic engineer finally landed it for his people.

Chief Wilmarth of the fire department would have an ordinance governing the installation of moving picture machines in the city. He says that the increase of the shows in the city and the unofficial authority given to the city engineer's office as to the fire protection against the machines, guarantees the creating of an ordinance covering this point. A number of the boys over the city are built in a hazardous and improper manner in relation to the situation of the machines.

Chief Wilmarth submitted the prop-

osition to the city council and it has been referred to the proper committee for consideration and eventually for passing.

According to the information given out by Chief Wilmarth, there are three fire cisterns in Topeka that need repairing and the repairs should be made at once. These cisterns are used all over the business districts of the city and are for the purpose of supplying the steamers in case the pressure of the mains fails off. The emergency cisterns needing improvements—and they must be fixed before they can be filled—are situated at North Kansas avenue near Morris street, West Seventh near Kansas avenue and on Kansas avenue near Tenth avenue.

Councilman Blakely has a new scheme up his sleeve to solve the gas question in Topeka. Mr. Blakely says that the gas company in this city is fully aware of the fact that their capacity is 8,000 meters. At the present time there are 10,000 meters connected with the gas company's mains. Mr. Blakely would make a test case out of the affair and see whether or not the gas company has a right to exceed their capacity to the disadvantage of the consumers.

The city water commissioners are planning to increase the water supply of the city by digging a new well near the present pumping station. This well would be 40 feet in diameter and 40 feet deep. It is planned by Superintendent Shaw to always keep the water supply of Topeka in good condition and in constant tap in case an emergency arises. The old well supplies the city very well at this time but in case of an extra draw there would be trouble. It is expected that the new well will be in shape for use by the middle of next summer. The work of excavation will be commenced as soon as the weather permits. Superintendent Shaw is also in favor of replacing the four inch mains on Kansas avenue with six-inch mains. This work will be done as fast as the smaller mains leak and need repairing. Kansas avenue should have better water service, according to the superintendent, and it will be attended to as fast as possible.

The schedule meeting of the ways and means committee of the city council for the purpose of deciding on the proposition of raising the salaries of the city firemen falls to materialize last night. It was postponed a week.

The accompanying cut shows the result of the plans for the 75-foot arches to be added to the big Melan bridge across the Kaw river on Kansas avenue. These arches will be constructed on the south side of the present structure and will be built of reinforced concrete at a cost of about \$40,000. The city has voted bonds for the covering of this expense and the work will commence in the spring and completed before the usual spring freshets.

MR. JACKSON TO HOWE.

Charges Atchison Editor With Being in League With Waggoner.

When asked today about the editorial by Ed Howe in the Atchison Globe which cast a doubt upon the nomination in the Fourth district, Attorney General Jackson said:

"I got notice that Mr. Howe said he was going to make a trip to the Fourth district solely in order to give his hand to Mr. Miller (whom he calls a 'regular devil') in the event that I become a candidate and Mr. Miller will be primary. Now it seems to me that such a journey would be unnecessary on the part of Mr. Howe. Mr. Miller and High Brown Howe are usually so closely in touch with Hon. B. F. Waggoner, the state attorney for the Missouri Pacific railway, that this eminent political leader can always reach out and touch their hands. After doing so he could place his hands upon their heads and say: 'These are my jewels.' The picture would then be complete."

HAD RIGHT TO COMBINE.

Verdict Returned in Suit of Boston Against Steel Companies.

Boston, Dec. 8.—Thirty-three American steel firms and individual agents for steel companies were found not guilty of collusion in bidding for steel contracts in the superior court today.

The case was the outcome of a report of the finance commission years ago. The commission declared many steel companies had combined to maintain prices by permitting one of the firms in the combination to submit bids for steel work in the city of Boston.

The report created a sensation and was quoted by President Roosevelt in a message to congress in April, 1908. The court decided before the jury retired that there had been no monopoly and also that the defendants had the right to combine to advance their own interests.

COMMITTEE ESTIMATES.

Show a Total of \$978,125,769 for Next Fiscal Year.

Washington, Dec. 8.—Thomas P. Cleave and James C. Courts, clerks respectively of the senate and house committees on appropriations have issued their annual comparison of estimates of appropriations. The figures show a total estimate for the next fiscal year, beginning July 1, of \$978,125,769 as compared with a total appropriation in the last session of \$1,022,832,061 and for the session of that session for \$1,058,387,508.

The estimate is more than \$80,000,000 less than that of the previous session and almost \$45,000,000 less than the actual appropriations of that session.

Warning Up in Colorado.
Denver, Col., Dec. 8.—For the first time since last Friday, the temperature in Denver got above the freezing point today. Reports from throughout the state indicated that the winter weather had about spent its force. Two men were found unconscious from cold early today. Both probably will die.

REFORM SAYS SMILEY.

Wants Better Inspection of Wheat-Crop Prospects.

"I never pay much attention to wheat conditions in winter," was the statement made today by J. H. Smiley, secretary of the Kansas Grain Dealers' association. "In 1895 we had a wet fall. On February 1 we had as good prospects for a record wheat crop as we ever had but that year only 27,000,000 bushels of wheat were produced. The crop was destroyed in four days in March by a gale which covered the ground and smothered the wheat. I think that the wheat is all right now as it doesn't require as much oxygen as the spring."

"I have received a letter dated yesterday from Minneapolis, Kansas, which says: 'Wheat looks good here. About the same amount as last year.'"

"According to Clement, Curtis & Co., Chicago grain dealers, the acreage sown to wheat this year is about 96 per cent of that sown last year and I believe that is about correct."

"There has been much complaint in the past of poor inspection of wheat in Kansas. What is known as 'office inspection' is proving successful. It has been stated that with the present salaries allowed by the legislature it is difficult to get competent inspectors. The office system is recognized as one of the strong factors in the grain trade of the southwest, and in the interest of both the producer and the consumer I am pleased to learn that you have given attention to the controversy that has arisen in different sections of the country of the relative merit of different systems of inspection. For four years the Chicago department inspected grain in the cars upon arrival at the yards and in September, 1908, changed to the 'office' system in the belief that under the latter method there could be obtained a more uniform standard of grades and a better supervision of the work of the department than was before possible."

"After a thorough demonstration of the system I have become more than ever convinced that it is the only system yet devised in which there can be any degree of uniformity."

"In the old system the result was innumerable cases of appeal and re-inspection and more or less attendant discord."

Under the old system samples are taken at the cars and then taken to the board of trade building, and under the office system to again quote from Chief Inspector Cowen's letter, "The men are provided with commodious quarters, well lighted and protected from the inclement weather, they have also better facilities for accurately weighing the grain and in applying the different tests, and with the added safeguard of numbers in determining questions that arise every day in connection with their work and in which there may be an honest differing of judgment."

A copy of the Cowen letter was sent to John T. White, chief inspector for Kansas by Secretary Smiley and the following is taken from his reply: "As to the views expressed by Mr. Cowen they were approved by me. I think if the Kansas City Exchange was located so that we could inspect in a room and get the samples there that I would put it in force at once, but I do not feel that I would have the right to establish an office or working room in the state of Missouri, and we could not gather the samples in Kansas City, Kan., and get them to the Exchange building in time for a set. Whenever we can see our way clearly to do that I would be glad to put it into force."

It was Mr. Smiley's belief that the new system will be put into effect eventually. At the present time the samples are sent from the cars at Kansas City, Kan., and he thought that Inspector White's only objection was hardly consistent.

HEALTH MEN ARE HERE.

Large Delegation Enjoys the Commercial Club Luncheon.

There were 150 business men present this noon at the Commercial club. Dr. Crumline and members of the state board of health and a number of inspectors met for lunch.

The Business Men's Bible class of the First M. E. church with 32 members present listened to a short address by Harold T. Chase.

AMUSEMENTS.

The Johnson-Ketchell light pictures will be at the Grand tonight.

The popular young comedians "The Lyman Twins" will bring the largest musical attraction they have ever been seen in here Saturday called "The Prize Winners" which is just as breezy as its name implies and which is not only the largest but the best musical success these twin stars have ever attempted. The attraction is at the Grand Saturday matinee and night.

Bank President Arrested.
Janesville, Wis., Dec. 8.—Oliver Spenzley, president of the defunct First National bank of Mineral Point, who was indicted by the LaCrosse grand jury was arrested and taken today to Madison, where it was expected he would give bond. Thomas Tomlin, a retired farmer living in Mineral Point, accompanied Mr. Spenzley and the marshal and stated he was prepared to give bond up to \$100,000 for Spenzley.

Justin Broke Her Tail Shaft.
San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 8.—The United States collier Justin with a broken tail shaft was towed into the harbor early today by the steam schooner Yellow Stone, which found the ground line vessel making slow time into port under sail. The accident to the Justin occurred last night off Pigeon Point, while she was returning from Magdalena bay.

Evangelization of the United States.
Louisville, Ky., Dec. 8.—Evangelization of the United States was discussed at today's session of the

The Christmas Spirit Prevades This Store

You will need no suggestion to "shop early" if you take one peep inside this bright and busy store. The artistic decorations—so suggestive of Christmas cheer—the beautiful and useful gift articles attractively displayed, and the busy, happy crowds of those who are already enthused—fill the very atmosphere with a Christmas spirit that's contagious.

Neckwear for 25c and 50c

You can always buy inexpensive neckwear of a sort—but at Christmas time, especially, you should come here—where really fine neckwear is sold at 25c and 50c. There are many more styles than we have ever shown before at these prices—including the newest effects in jabots and collars.

BRADLEY MUFFLERS—full fashioned, doubly knitted from fine yarn—closely fitted at the neck. Black, white and colors—for both men and women—25c and 50c.

Tea Room

You will find it convenient to come down in the morning, for your Christmas shopping, have luncheon in our Tea Room, on the Third Floor and remain to complete your purchases in the afternoon.

Give Aprons

You can hardly resist the temptation these dainty aprons offer. These aprons are as pretty daintily fine, and not expensive. Every style you can ask for is here, from those for the maid to the daintiest of chafing dish aprons.

Some of the 25c Aprons

Maid's plain white aprons with bib, hemstitched ties and hem—three styles.

Band Aprons of fine lawn, with 4-inch hemstitched hem, and group of tucks.

Tea Aprons, round or square—with yoke-band, and hemstitched ruffles.

Great Variety at 50c

Six styles of daintily trimmed hand aprons for accurately weighing the grain and in applying the different tests, and with the added safeguard of numbers in determining questions that arise every day in connection with their work and in which there may be an honest differing of judgment."

From 65c to \$1.75—Many very fine aprons in all styles, including tea, chafing dish, and princess aprons.

In Our Attractive Stationery Department

You will find writing paper of the excellent quality that makes a worth gift to anyone. The Berlin stationery which we sell to the exclusion of all other kinds is of beautiful texture, and has an agreeable writing surface. This stationery is boxed in the most tasteful manner, and sold at moderate prices.

In this department you will find the newest designs in Christmas seals and stamps, initial seals, tally and dinner cards, score cards for bridge and five hundred. Also Red Cross stamps, and Red Cross postals.

25c STATIONERY BEAUTIFULLY BOXED—There's room to exercise discriminating taste in selecting from the many styles of 25c boxed stationery. The quality of the linen fabric paper is very good, and boxes artistically decorated. Among the designs are:

California Poppies
Poinsettia
Calla Lily

Water Lily
Old Mission
Violet, Fleur de L's

Wild Roses
Japanese
Medallions

Books by Kansas Authors

The following list of books by eminent Kansas Authors will be found in our Stationery Department. No gifts could be more appropriate, to friends within or outside the state, than selections from Kansas' best literature.

Cuddy's Baby, Margaret Hill McCarter.....50c
Cuddy and Other Stories, Margaret Hill McCarter.....50c
The Cottonwood's Story, Margaret Hill McCarter.....50c
In Old Quivira, Margaret Hill McCarter.....50c
Blue Waters and the Green, F. Dumont Smith.....\$1.50
Tales of the Trail, Col. Henry Inman.....\$1.00
A Pioneer from Old Kentucky, Colonel Henry Inman.....75c

Great Salt Lake Trail, Col. Henry Inman.....\$2.50
Old Santa Fe Trail, Col. Henry Inman.....\$2.50
Doniphan's Expedition, Wm. E. Connelley.....\$2.50
John Brown, Wm. E. Connelley.....\$1.00
A Colorado Colonel, Wm. Carey Campbell.....\$1.00
Tom McNeal's Fables.....\$1.00
Walls of Corn, Ellen P. Allerton.....\$1.00
The Border and the Buffalo, John B. Coolidge.....\$2.50
A Journey of a Jayhawker, W. Y. Morgan.....\$1.25
Kansas Day, F. H. Barrington.....\$1.00

Elementary Studies in Insect Life, Samuel J. Hunter.....\$1.25
Circle Dot, M. H. Donoho.....\$1.50
Aesop's Fables for Children, Arranged by Nellie Perkins Dobbs.....50c
Collection of Kansas Poetry, Compiled by Hattie Horner.....50c
Mexico—With Comparisons and Conclusions.....\$1.00
A. A. Graham.....\$1.00
A Charles M. Sheldon Year Book.....\$1.00

For Sets for Christmas

The Mills Dry Goods Co.

Kansas Mail Order Service

executive committee of the federal council of the churches of Christ in America now meeting in Louisville. The committee reports nearly half the members of the Christian denominations in America and some of the most noted religious leaders in the nation will speak on evangelization.

HE FOUND THE SPONGE.

But the Woman Died Under the Operation for Locating It.

Milwaukee, Wis., Dec. 8.—After suffering for years with a surgeon's sponge sewed up in her body, Mrs. John H. Fertig of this city, died today.

Four years ago, Mrs. Fertig was operated on for a tumor. The physicians forgot to remove a sponge from the wound and a second operation was performed.

One year later portions of the sponge worked out through the woman's side. A third operation which ended fatally resulted in locating the sponge.



WONDERFUL AIRSHIP.



Santos Dumont and His Wonderful "Demoiselle."

After a long seclusion, Santos Dumont has made a sensational reappearance by the remarkable cross-country flight he accomplished in France last week. He has gained the world's speed record by traveling at over 55 miles an hour, and he has secured the rapid-starting record by rising clear into the air after a run of 76 yards in 6 1-5 seconds. Indeed, he has shown his ability to get off the ground after traveling on a little over 20 yards. His machine is the "Demoiselle," fitted with a horizontal motor of 30 horse-power, built by Darraque. The "Demoiselle" is a tiny monoplane with only about 10 square yards of bearing surface, that is, almost half that of Bleriot's smallest monoplane, and not a fifth of that used on the Wright machine. The entire weight of the apparatus with Santos

on board is only 260 pounds. Many other aeroplanes weigh over 1,200 pounds without the pilot on board. So small and compact is the "Demoiselle" that it can be transported on a motor car when folded up. Airships of this type can be built for less than \$1,000. This low price brings it within the reach of the people and will go far toward popularizing air navigation. Its light weight and compact construction make it highly available for use in war.

MRS. NATION SMASHES.

Spills \$50 Worth of Whisky at Washington and Is Arrested.

Washington, Dec. 8.—Mrs. Carrie A. Nation, who came here to keep her eye on congress, went into the buffet of the union station this afternoon and with her hatchet smashed about \$50 worth of bottled whisky. She was also arrested charged with destroying private property.

HENEY TO SUE CROCKER

Prosecuting Attorney Will Ask \$250,000 for Libel.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 8.—Francis J. Heney, who is in this city on his way to Arizona, confirmed today the report that he had filed suit in New York against William H. Crocker of San Francisco for \$250,000 for alleged libel. Heney said that the papers in the action would be served on Crocker in New York.